

## S.J.R. No. 20

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board to provide assistance to economically distressed areas.

*BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Section 49-d-10 to read as follows:

*Sec. 49-d-10. (a) The Texas Water Development Board may issue additional general obligation bonds, at its determination, for the economically distressed areas program account of the Texas Water Development Fund II, in an amount not to exceed \$250 million. The bonds shall be used to provide financial assistance to economically distressed areas of the state as defined by law.*

*(b) Section 49-d-8(e) of this article applies to the bonds authorized by this section.*

SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 6, 2007. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$250 million to provide assistance to economically distressed areas."

Adopted by the Senate on March 27, 2007: Yeas 30, Nays 0; adopted by the House on May 14, 2007: Yeas 113, Nays 22, one present not voting.

Filed with the Secretary of State, May 17, 2007.

## S.J.R. No. 29

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt all or part of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans from ad valorem taxation and authorizing a change in the manner of determining the amount of the existing exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled.

*BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

*(i) The legislature by general law may exempt from ad valorem taxation all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of a disabled veteran who is certified as having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 100 percent or totally disabled and may provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption. For purposes of this subsection, "disabled veteran" means a disabled veteran as described by Section 2(b) of this article.*

SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 2, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The Legislature may, by general law, exempt property owned by a disabled veteran or by the surviving spouse and surviving minor children of a disabled veteran. A disabled veteran is a veteran of the armed services of the United States who is classified as disabled by the Veterans' Administration or by a successor to that agency[;] or by the military service in which *the veteran* [he] served. A veteran who is certified as having a disability of less than 10 percent is not entitled to an exemption. A veteran having a disability rating of not less than 10 percent *but less* [~~not more~~] than 30 percent may be granted an exemption from taxation for property valued at up to \$5,000. A veteran having a disability rating of *not less* [~~more~~] than 30 percent but *less* [~~not more~~] than 50 percent may be granted an exemption from taxation for property valued at up to \$7,500. A veteran having a disability rating of *not less* [~~more~~] than 50 percent but *less* [~~not more~~] than 70 percent may be granted an exemption from taxation for property valued at up to \$10,000. A veteran who has a disability rating of [~~more than~~] 70 percent *or more*, or a veteran who has a disability rating of not less than 10

percent and has attained the age of 65, or a disabled veteran whose disability consists of the loss or loss of use of one or more limbs, total blindness in one or both eyes, or paraplegia, may be granted an exemption from taxation for property valued at up to \$12,000. The spouse and children of any member of the United States Armed Forces who dies while on active duty may be granted an exemption from taxation for property valued at up to \$5,000. A deceased disabled veteran's surviving spouse and children may be granted an exemption which in the aggregate is equal to the exemption to which the veteran was entitled when the veteran died.

SECTION 3. The following temporary provision is added to the Texas Constitution:

*TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, authorizing the legislature to exempt all or part of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans from ad valorem taxation and authorizing a change in the manner of determining the amount of the existing exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled and expires January 1, 2009.*

*(b) The amendments to Sections 1-b and 2(b), Article VIII, of this constitution take effect January 1, 2008, and apply only to a tax year beginning on or after that date.*

SECTION 4. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 6, 2007. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt all or part of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans from ad valorem taxation and authorizing a change in the manner of determining the amount of the existing exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled."

Adopted by the Senate on May 3, 2007: Yeas 31, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 24, 2007: Yeas 30, Nays 0; adopted by the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2007: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Filed with the Secretary of State, May 28, 2007.

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## S.J.R. No. 44

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit the voters of a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 to authorize the governing body of the municipality to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property in or adjacent to an area in the municipality that has been approved for funding under certain revitalization or redevelopment programs to prohibit ad valorem tax increases on the owner's property for a limited period.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Article VIII, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Section 1-o to read as follows:

*Sec. 1-o. To aid in the elimination of slum and blighted conditions in less populated communities in this state, to promote rural economic development in this state, and to improve the economy of this state, the legislature by general law may authorize the governing body of a municipality having a population of less than 10,000, in the manner required by law, to call an election to permit the voters to determine by majority vote whether to authorize the governing body of the municipality to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property that is located in or adjacent to a designated area of the municipality that has been approved for funding under the Downtown Revitalization Program or the Main Street Improvements Program administered by the Department of Agriculture, or a successor program administered by that agency, under which the parties agree that the ad valorem taxes imposed by any political subdivision on the owner's real property may not be increased for the first five tax years after the tax year in which the agreement is entered into, subject to the terms and conditions provided by the agreement. A general law enacted under this section must provide that, if authorized by the voters, an agreement to limit ad valorem tax increases authorized by this section:*